

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

ACDA-10 INR-05 L-01 SP-02 PRS-01 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 PM-03

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R 201757Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4131

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5713

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, GR, UK

SUBJ: BRITISH VIEWS ON GREECE-NATO NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. LONDON 15811 DTG 151212Z OCT 75 (NOTAL);

B. USNATO 5503 DTG 091505Z OCT 75;

C. STATE 236950 DTG 040032Z OCT 75

1. UK DCM LOGAN CALLED ON CHARGE OCTOBER 20 TO DISCUSS LONDON'S VIEWS ON GREECE-NATO NEGOTIATIONS. LOGAN DESCRIBED CARAMANLIS TALKS IN LONDONALONG LINES REF A AND SAID CALLAGHAN AND WILSON WERE IMPRESSED BY CARAMANLIS' STATEMENT THAT HE WANTED GREECE TO RETURN TO FULL NATO MEMBERSHIP, BUT THAT, IF COMPELLED TO CHOOSE NOW BETWEEN FULL MEMBERSHIP AND LEAVING, HE WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE GREECE OUT OF NATO.

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2. ACCORDINGLY, LOGAN SAID, HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVED THE ALLIES SHOULD NOT PRESS THE GREEKS FOR RAPID PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS ON NATO ISSUES, BUT SHOULD ALLOW THE GREEKS TO MOVE FORWARD AT THE TEMPO THEY CHOOSE. IN LONDON'S VIEW, NATO'S INTERIM

ADJUSTMENTS TO GREECE'S PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL FROM PARTICIPATION IN NATO MILITARY ACTIVITY COULD BE SUSTAINED FOR SOME TIME, THE GREEKS CANNOT BE PRODDED INTO ACCOMMODATIONS ON DIFFICULT ISSUES SUCH AS OVERFLIGHTS, AND THE GREEKS SHOULD BE PERMITTED GRADUALLY TO CLARIFY THEIR POSITION ON THE POINTS COVERED IN THEIR OCTOBER 9 STATEMENT TO THE NAC (REF B).

3. CHARGE NOTED THAT SINCE HE DISCUSSED US POSITION ON GREECE-NATO RELATIONS (REF C) WITH KEY ALLIED AND GREEK PERMREPS IN EARLY OCTOBER, THERE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS OF OCTOBER 9 GREEK STATEMENT TO THE NAC AND CARAMANLIS' STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 16. AS CHARGE HAD TOLD DPC, US WELCOMED OCTOBER 9 STATEMENT AND SUGGESTED MORE RAPID PROGRESS WOULD LIKELY BE POSSIBLE ON PRACTICAL ISSUES THAN ON THE BROADER POLITICAL ISSUES OF GREECE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO. CHARGE SAID US BELIEVES THERE IS A NEED FOR EFFORT AT NATO TO MAKE PROGRESS WHERE POSSIBLE IN GREECE-NATO NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE OF (A) NEED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT ALLIES ARE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT LEGITIMATE TURKISH CONCERNS, AND (B) NEED TO KEEP GREECE-NATO NEGOTIATIONS IN STRIDE WITH NEGOTIATIONS ON US-GREEK DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS. HE ADDED THAT OPEN-ENDED DPC WORKING GROUP WOULD PROVIDE A MECHANISM TO CONTAIN ANY TURKISH EFFORTS TO PUT UNDUE PRESSURE ON THE GREEKS.

4. LOGAN ACKNOWLEDGE VALIDITY OF REASONS FOR MOVING AHEAD ON GREECE-NATO NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH HE BELIEVED LONDON MIGHT TO SOME EXTENT HAVE OVERLOOKED IN REACTING TO CARAMANLIS' REMARKS. HE SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS UK VIEWS WITH OTHER KEY DELEGATIONS AND ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE FRG, WHICH HAS BEEN SILENT ON ISSUE TO DATE, TO WELCOME OCTOBER 9 GREEK STATEMENT.

5. COMMENT: WHILE THERE APPEARS TO BE DIFFERENCE OF EMPHASIS IN UK APPROACH TO GREECE-NATO NEGOTIATIONS, WE BELIEVE UK CAN BE ACCOMMODATED THROUGH DISCUSSION IN OPEN-ENDED DPC GROUP. STREATOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic DecapTIONing: Z
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 OCT 1975
DecapTION Date: 28 MAY 2004
DecapTION Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO05713
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197510101/abbrzmgo.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: A. LONDON 15811 DTG 151212Z OCT 75 (NOTAL); B. USNATO 5503 DTG 091505Z OCT 75; C. STATE 236950 DTG 040032Z OCT 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH VIEWS ON GREECE-NATO NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, GR, UK
To: STATE INFO ANKARA
ATHENS
LONDON
NICOSIA
USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006